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Draft report

Addendum

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Programme questions: evaluation (item 3 (d))

Global development trends, issues and policies, and global approaches to social and microeconomic issues and policies, and the corresponding subprogrammes in the regional commissions

1. At its 2nd, 3rd and 4th meetings, on 5 and 6 June 2000, the Committee considered the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the in-depth evaluation of global development trends, issues and policies, and global approaches to social and microeconomic issues and policies, and the corresponding subprogrammes in the regional commissions (E/AC.51/2000/2).

2. The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report. The representative of the Secretary-General responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. It was observed that the dissemination of socio-economic analysis was important and that the use of traditional means, such as the dissemination of printed material, briefings by Secretariat officials and radio broadcasts, should be continued and strengthened. New means of communication, as exemplified by the Financing for Development web site, were useful in facilitating an exchange of information in this field and the Secretariat should give them adequate attention.

4 It was noted that recurrent publications had, in the past, not made a major input to intergovernmental processes, and that a number of them had been significantly reformulated. It was hoped that, with the changes made, those

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publications would contribute to the ongoing follow-up to the major United Nations conferences. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs needed to strengthen analysis of long-term trends in the global economy.

5. The view was expressed that the potential for coordination was not fully realized and that the flow of information between the regional and the global programmes needed to be improved. It was observed that better coordination among the regional programmes themselves and with the global programmes might lead to a more effective use of resources.

6. Concerns were expressed regarding the decrease of resources allocated to the analysis of socio-economic development trends in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The view was expressed that, based on such findings, OIOS should have formulated recommendations for consideration by the Committee under the relevant items of its agenda.

7. On the lack of specialized intergovernmental guidance provided to subprogramme 28.7, representatives had expected to find specific recommendations in the report to address that problem.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. The Committee recommended approval of the recommendations in the report, subject to the following observations:

(a) Recommendation 1. The value of the *World Economic and Social Survey* as a reference tool should be preserved;

(b) Recommendation 3

(i) It was not clear how this recommendation would be implemented;

(ii) The Secretary-General should ensure that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs develops adequate capacity for the implementation of relevant intergovernmental mandates;

(c) Recommendations 4 and 5. These should not have included language on the availability of resources. The importance of the activities recommended should be the primary consideration;

(d) Recommendation 6. Dissemination by network of experts should be complementary to other means of dissemination.

9. The Committee recommends that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs take measures to review its capacity to carry out in a better manner the analysis of socio-economic development trends.